

The April edition of the Maryland Energy Administration newsletter features updates on Governor O'Malley's energy package.

## Maryland Energy Administration



Today marks exactly one week until the close of the 2011 Session of the Maryland General Assembly, and therefore the beginning of the final push in support of the centerpiece of Governor O'Malley energy package: the **Maryland Offshore Wind Energy Act of 2011**. This bill would help create green jobs in Maryland, improve public health and energy security, and produce enough clean, locally generated renewable energy to power more than half of the homes in Baltimore City by requiring development of 400 to 600 MW of offshore wind capacity approximately ten miles off of Maryland's coast.

On March 23, Governor O'Malley was joined by local steelworkers, environmental advocates, and legislative leaders at Annapolis' City Dock to promote the Maryland Offshore Wind Energy Act. At the event, the Governor announced the introduction of new amendments that will protect ratepayers by ensuring that any approved project is projected to have a maximum bill impact on the average Maryland family of \$2 per month or less. The O'Malley-Brown Administration and the PSC have each independently estimated the likely price impact to be even lower.

Due to its ideal location in the Mid-Atlantic, as well as the deep-water port and manufacturing infrastructure in Baltimore, Maryland is well positioned to be a leader not only in offshore wind energy generation, but

also in ongoing construction and maintenance. Based on the European experience, the US Department of Energy projects that a 500 MW wind generation facility in the waters off of the Delmarva coast would generate as many as 2,000 manufacturing and construction jobs during the five-year development period, with an additional 400 permanent jobs once the turbines are spinning. Maryland's Department of Business and Economic Development estimates that an offshore wind project of this size would have an economic impact of \$1.9 billion in Maryland.

The other bills in the Governor's energy package, which include bills to promote electric vehicles, solar hot water, and net energy metering in the state, are all on track to reach the Governor's desk and become law.

The last day of the General Assembly's 2011 Session is Monday, April 11, 2011.



## University Park Efficiency Upgrades

Through the MEA's [Home Performance Rebate Program](#), a University Park family received a rebate of \$1,550. Combined with a \$400 federal rebate, the family reduced the cost of their upgrade by nearly 50%. [Read more...](#)



## Home Performance Rebate Program

The program offers bigger rebates than ever for home energy efficiency improvements. Combine a 35% rebate from the MEA with 15% rebates from utilities to save up to 50% on efficiency upgrades. [Read more...](#)



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## Energy News

As legislative session draws to a close, get updates about offshore wind, the electric vehicle package, natural gas exploration, and more.

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## Upcoming Events

The Friends of Quiet Waters Park host an Environmental Lecture Series. In April, sign up to discuss "Climate Change and Maryland's Shores."

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## Smart, Green & Growing

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